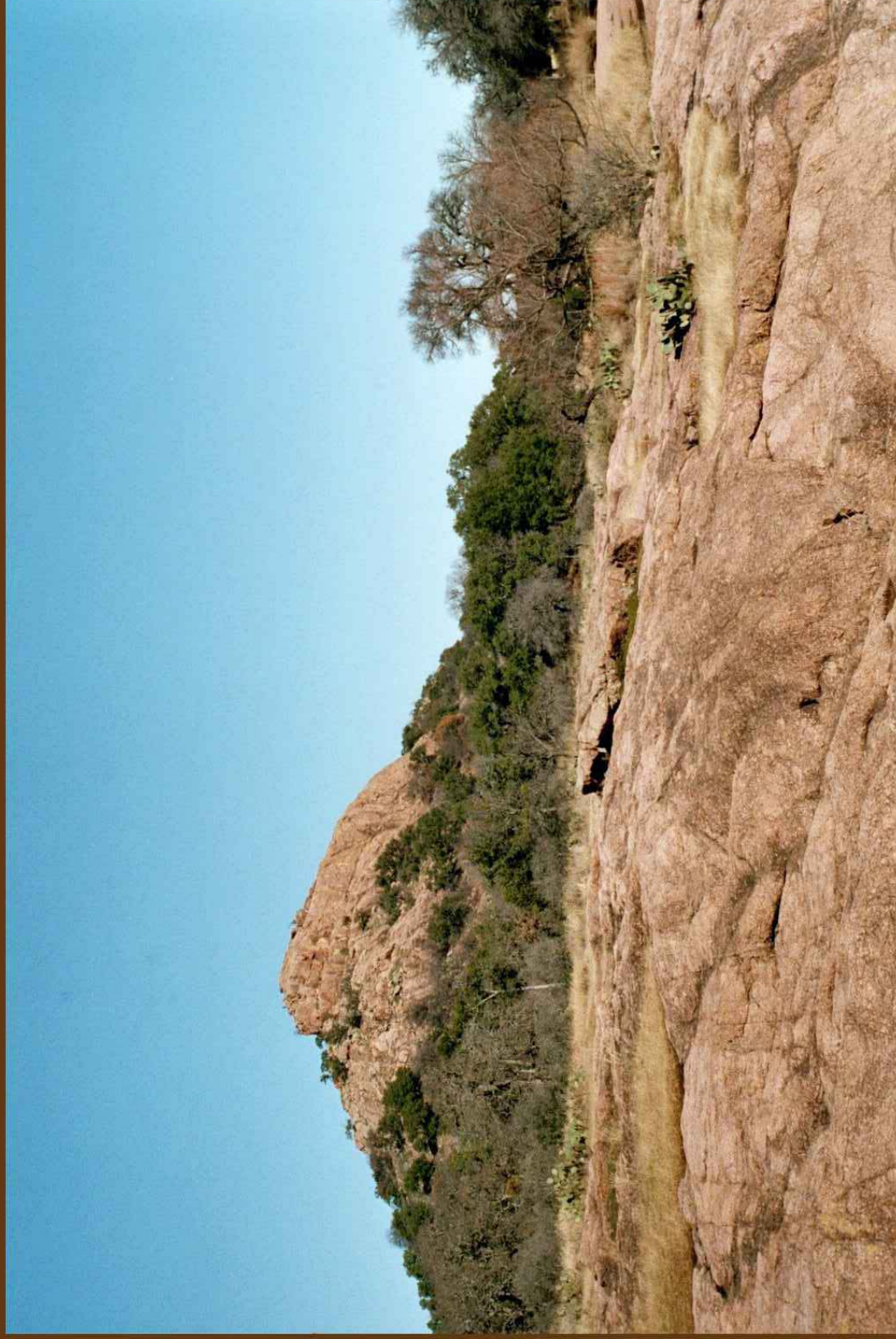


# THE MAVERICK BULL

Volume 17, Issue 2  
February 2004

The Newsletter of the Maverick Grotto



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The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of the Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other grottos to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, photographs, and other two- and three-dimensional goodies. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed stamped envelope should accompany it.

**Reprinting Articles:** Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author as stated in the byline) first appearing in the Maverick Bull if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor of the Maverick Bull at the address herein.

**Exchanges:** The Maverick Grotto will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

**Complimentary Newsletters:**  
The Maverick Grotto will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations that provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Maverick Grotto will provide one free issue to persons interested in becoming members.

**Subscription Rates:** Subscription rates are \$15 per year for nonmembers and free for members.

**Membership Policy:** Any individual with interests, beliefs, and actions consistent with the purposes of the Maverick Grotto and the National Speleological Society is eligible for membership. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three-trip requirement with at least three different grotto members. These three members shall act as sponsors. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

**Meetings:** Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Bodacious BBQ,

1206 E. Division St., Arlington. The time is 7 p.m., and the food is good.

**Carbide:** Currently carbide is unavailable.

**Library:** Support your grotto library. Russell Hill is accepting books, magazines, and videos related to caves and caving for our library. Thanks to Russell for his efforts in transporting the library collection to meetings.

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**Secretary**

Scott Boyd has been nominated for this position, election to take place at February meeting.

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## Photo Credits

Cover photo: Granite dome in Enchanted Rock State Park, by Diana Tomchick  
Pages 3 & 4 (left): by Butch Fralia  
Page 4, right: by Diana Tomchick

## Visit Our Web Site!

Butch has been hard at work updating the web site, check it out! You'll find information about getting into caving, trip photos and the PDF version of this newsletter (with color photos!):

**maverickgrotto.org**

## Correction

The photo caption on page 5 of the January issue incorrectly lists the years that Cathy Winfrey was TSA Chair. It should read 1995 and 1996. Cathy was TSA Secretary in 1990 and 1991. Thanks to Jerry Atkinson and Carl Kunath for compiling the list of past TSA officers and for sharing it with me.

## Pay Your Dues!

It's time to pay your grotto dues! At the last meeting the grotto members decided to retain the dues structure from 2003. Included in this newsletter is a form for you to fill out with your contact info. Fill it out and mail it in with your check to Sharon Mastbrook, 3412 Walton Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76133. If you have received the hard copy version of the newsletter, we've even included an addressed envelope to make it easy for you to send it in. Please indicate if you prefer to receive the electronic version of the newsletter by downloading from the grotto website, or the hardcopy version by U.S. mail. Electing to receive the electronic version will save money for the grotto.

## January Meeting Minutes submitted by Diana Tomchick

The Maverick Grotto met January 13 at the Blue Mesa Grill on University Dr. in Ft. Worth.

## Special Thanks

Thanks to Bill Steele, who has proofread the newsletter for me for the last 5 months.

## Visitors:

Toy Karasek, Tammy and Lex Cox, Melinda Halcro, and Wayne and Jennifer Peplinski's daughters Beverly and Rebecca.

## Reports from Officers:

Treasurer: \$806.18 in checking account, \$100.52 in cash, total of \$906.70. Sharon distributed a card for members to update their contact information.

Newsletter Editor: Deadline for the February issue is February 2<sup>nd</sup>, you can send in submissions by regular mail or by e-mail.

## Announcements:

Diana Tomchick was elected in December as the 2004 Chair of the Texas Speleological Society.

## Old Business:

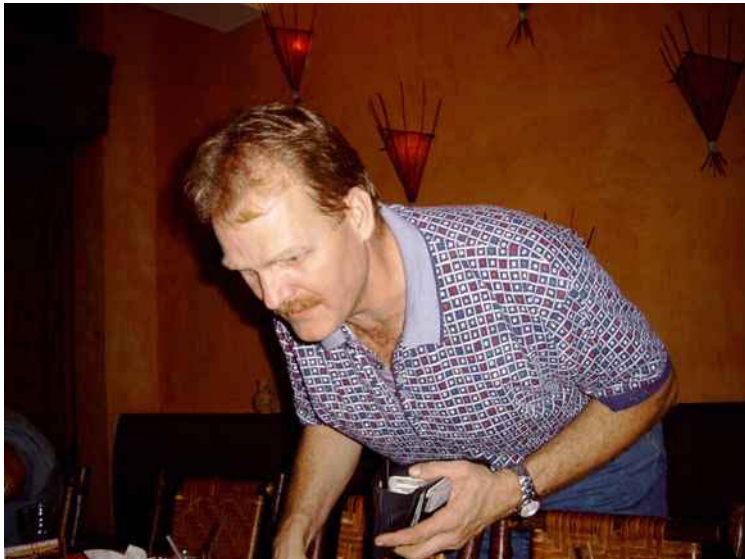
Since we are still looking for the perfect meeting site, the meeting in February will be at Bodacious BBQ in Arlington. Because the grotto donated \$350 to the NSS Great-X Fund, we are entitled to either three T-shirts or one polo and one T-shirt, which will be auctioned to the highest bidders. Members voted to opt for three T-shirts. Diana reported that she is still searching for a location for the Spring TSA Convention, therefore the date is not set yet. The DFW Grotto has agreed to sponsor this year's convention, and has invited the Maverick Grotto to co-sponsor the event. James Savage moved that the grotto accept the DFW offer, and Stephanie Selby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A lively discussion of the two proposals for grotto dues (see January 2004 issue for details) took place. Final vote tally: option A, 10 votes; option B, 7 votes. Grotto due structure will remain the same as in 2003: \$15 for membership dues plus newsletter (either hard copy or electronic version), \$22 for membership dues, newsletter, and grotto e-mail address.

## New Business:

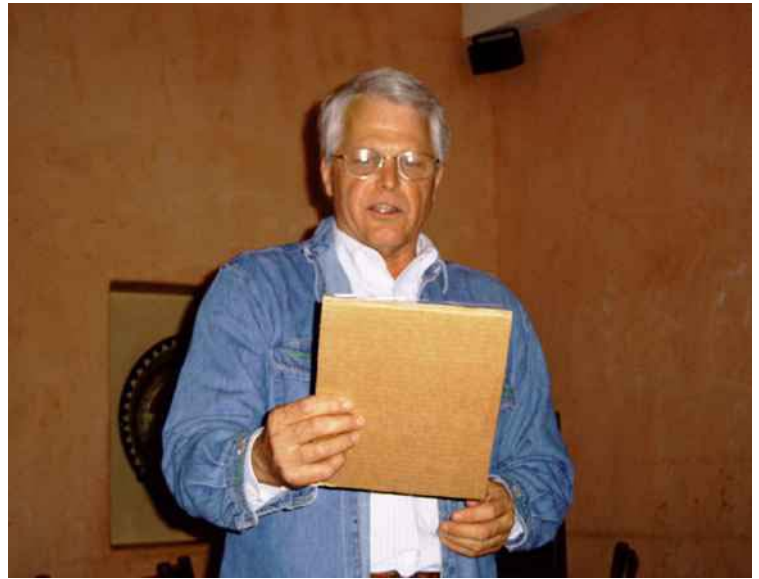
Due to increased time pressures from attending graduate school, Karen Perry resigned as grotto Secretary. Scott Boyd volunteered to serve as Secretary. A special election for the position will be announced in the February newsletter and take place at the February meeting.

## Trip Reports and Trip Announcements:

Trip reports were skipped due to a lack of time, as everyone was eager to get the grotto auction started. Trips announced included



Mark Gee has paid his grotto dues--have you?



Bill Steele prepares to auction Jim White's Carlsbad Caverns book.

the January 17<sup>th</sup> TSS meeting and work party in Austin, the January 24<sup>th</sup> TSA business meeting at Government Canyon State Natural area, and the January 30<sup>th</sup> Kickapoo project weekend

## Program:

The before-meeting program was the finale of the Devil's Sinkhole video and a short video of Bill Cuddington's 28 second rappel into Golondrinas. Bill Steele served as auctioneer at the grotto auction that followed the meeting. The auction raised \$329 for the grotto funds, see the article that follows for more details.

## Grotto Auction by Bill Steele

I learned that the Maverick Grotto holds an annual auction so I readily volunteered to conduct it because I thought it would be fun to do. The proceeds go into the grotto general fund, from which I have confidence good things for caves and/or cavers will happen. In all, \$329.00 was raised by the auction at the January meeting. Many thanks to grotto members who donated items, and a special thanks to all of you who let me badger you into paying more than the items were worth. You did such a good job acting like you didn't realize it, that I didn't have any regrets.



Audrey Goff enjoys the festivities.



Front, left to right: Stephanie Selby and an unidentified visitor. Rear: Will Harris and Dan Smith

Here is a list of what was auctioned, who donated what, and who bought the item. Maybe next year we'll do even better.

Listed in the following order: item—donor—purchaser

- 150' rope—Milo Marks—Diana Tomchick
- "Amazing Caves" video—Bill Steele—Chad Fenner
- Can of cooking fuel—Bill Steele—Laura Goff
- Christopher Fenner artwork—Christopher Fenner—Mark Gee
- Cookset—Ed & Laura Goff—Sharon Mastbrook
- Huautla video—Bill Steele—Garrett Gressett
- Jim White's book on Carlsbad Caverns—Milo Marks—Diana Tomchick
- Magnetic Flashing Jewelry—Bill Steele—Sharon Mastbrook
- "Scary Stories of Mammoth Cave"—Bill Steele—Toy Karasek
- Three Caving Calendars from Speleopress—Diana Tomchick—Chad Fenner, Donald Selby, and Robert Halcro
- TSA belt buckle—Mike Cagle—Butch Fralia
- Water filter—Ed & Laura Goff—Chad Fenner



James Savage, Mike Cagle and Karen Perry are delighted to get the chance to support the grotto.

## Took it for Granite by Bill Steele

Texas rock climbers know that some of the best climbs in the state are to be found at what they call E-Rock, or Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. Located 18 miles north of Fredericksburg, this 425 foot high, pink granite exfoliation dome is one of the largest batholiths (underground rock formation uncovered by erosion) in the United States. Dated by uranium-lead-zircon geochronology, it is over one billion years old, or of Precambrian age.

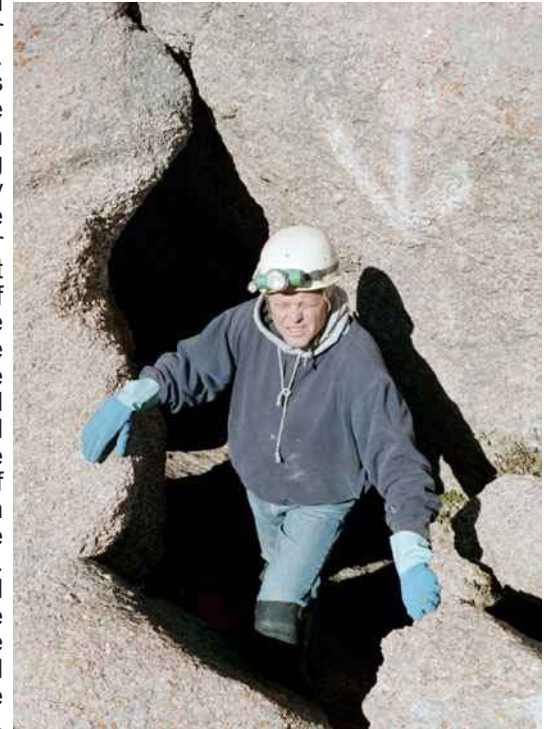
On top of the largest dome at Enchanted Rock is a good example of a granite exfoliation cave. It's 1,000 feet long, has multiple entrances, and is a must see for Texas cavers.

On a chilly January day Diana Tomchick and I camped at E-Rock and in the morning went in Enchanted Rock Cave. While poking around for the right entrance among boulders, we ran into two young men who were also looking for it. One was from Austin and his friend was from Denver. Diana and I had extra lights so we outfitted them beyond the one lone flashlight they had planned on using during their cave exploration.

The four of us found the entrance and did a through trip, emerging through a fairly tight crack at the far end after passing the first couple of entrances we came to. The novice Austinite seemed interested in caves, so I told him of the University of Texas Grotto in Austin, and where and when it met.

As Diana and I left the park we stopped at the office and asked for a copy of the map of the cave. It has been copied so many times that it's impossible to read the print on it. Later on we checked and found that the same map was published in the 1994 NSS Convention Guidebook, but that copy isn't much better, which leads me to believe that a decade ago there wasn't a better copy available.

Enchanted Rock Cave needs three things from cavers: to be remapped so that a better map is available (or find the original copy of the map and supply better copies to the Park), a cleanup trip by a half a dozen cavers with trash sacks to remove cans and other litter, and a restoration trip to remove painted arrows and graffiti. Any restoration efforts would require approval by the Enchanted Rock Natural Area authorities, and cave restoration experts should be consulted as to the best restoration methods.



Bill Steele in one of the entrances to Enchanted Rock Cave. Notice the painted arrow on the rock behind him.

## Government Canyon State Natural Area Survey Project by Diana Tomchick

The Winter Texas Speleological Association meeting this year was held in conjunction with the January Government Canyon State Natural Area Survey project on the weekend of January 24-25th. George Veni originally started this project, which is located outside of San Antonio. When George became too busy, he asked Marvin Miller to take over the task of organizing the project, whose goal is to locate and document all cave and karst features in the 9,000-acre park. In approximately a year and a half, the park will be open to the public; in the meantime, other users such as local mountain biking groups are donating time to help with the development of the park. The presence of endangered species and archaeological remains have caused the permanent closure of some of the 38 known caves in the park, but only after they have been surveyed and maps have been drafted. During this weekend I was fortunate to have the opportunity to help Marvin survey one such cave that will be closed in the future.

I had originally planned to leave the Metroplex on Friday evening and finish the 5-hour drive to the park at around midnight. At 8:30 p.m. on Friday, I realized that I needed to change my plans, as I was still at work and hadn't finished packing, and I badly needed a good night's sleep. I left the next morning at 9 a.m. and arrived at the park around 3 p.m., where it had been raining all day. Marvin happened to be in the camping area, and greeted me with the news that there were four other people out for the project this Saturday: Phillip Rykwalder (from TAG), Jacqui Bills (from Sonora), Dave McClung (former Metroplex caver) and his girlfriend Sherry (from Austin). I donned my raincoat and we set out to look for Phillip and Jacqui, who were assigned a promising lead in one of the caves that had been dug open during the last project weekend. While we hiked the path toward the cave, Marvin told me about the origins of the park and the project. After 20 minutes or so we encountered Dave and Sherry, who were out ridge walking. They informed us that Phillip and Jacqui had abandoned their lead and returned to the campsite by a different route. Marvin decided to hike on to the cave and show me the entrance, which was another 15 minutes farther down the path. When he was satisfied that they were no longer in the cave, we returned to the campsite, where we discovered the reason they had quit working early. Phillip had been crawling into the tight passage to get to the lead, and tossed a drill in front of him. He had thought that the huffing and puffing noise he'd heard was the sound of his own labored breathing, until he glanced forward and saw two small cloven hooves. He'd encountered his first cave javelina! Immediately he turned his helmet towards the animal and tried to tell Jacqui about the animal, but all she could hear was a low, muffled "hrmph." She kept saying to him, "What?" until finally he said loud enough for her to hear, "Javelina!" They beat a hasty retreat, but left the drill behind, and hoped that when they returned from lunch the javelina would be scared away. No such luck would befall them, and Phillip returned to rescue the drill with a crowbar. He entered the tight space feet first this time, figuring that if it attacked he could either kick it or beat it senseless with the crowbar. The beast wisely chose to stand its ground and make threatening noises only, and Phillip returned to the surface with Marvin's drill. He will have a good story to tell when he returns to TAG!

The TSA meeting that evening went relatively smoothly, with very little controversy. George Veni appeared and informed us that he was in the process of preparing a bid to the NSS for an International Congress of Speleology to be held in 2009 in San

Antonio. The NSS will first decide which U.S. site has presented the best bid, and submit that site to the international body which will make the final decision amongst bids from other countries such as South Korea. The TSA members present decided to support this bid, with the caveat that some people are concerned about the potential impact to Texas caves from the large group of people expected for such an event.

The next morning Marvin and I were joined by Rick Cordell, a long-time member of the Bexar Grotto. We were going to survey in Dancing Rattler Cave, which is home to an endangered species of ground beetle—*Rhadine infernalis infernalis*. This cave is a small, tight one—it's been a long time since I've been in such a small cave, I must admit—but a very nice one, with some delicate formations about halfway in from the entrance. Unfortunately Rick was too large to fit very far beyond the previous survey stations that had been set in the cave, so Marvin and I placed 12 additional stations and surveyed 34.12 meters that day. Though I didn't get to see any of the ground beetles, we did find one of the most beautiful cave critters I've ever seen. It was about a centimeter long with dozens of fine, white delicate legs and a long, extremely shiny silver body. Marvin couldn't identify it, but later asked George, who replied, "What you saw was a troglobitic pillbug (isopod) that is common throughout the Edwards Plateau. It is *Brackenridgia cavernarum*. The one you saw was also hungry. When it is well fed the stripe down its back is dark brown to black."

The next project weekend is on February 29<sup>th</sup>, Sunday only, though most project weekends have trips on both Saturday and Sunday. I highly recommend the project, it's a beautiful area, and Marvin is an extremely knowledgeable and friendly project leader. I hope to return sometime soon.

## Texas Speleological Survey Winter Board Meeting by Diana Tomchick

On January 17, Bill Steele and I drove to the Texas Speleological Survey (TSS) office in Austin to attend their Winter meeting, and to check out the TSS library. We arrived just in time to greet Butch Fralia, the TSS Database Manager, and R.D. Milhollin, who had carpooled with Butch so that he could check on some leads in the TSS database. The TSS meetings are long affairs, typically lasting from 10:30 a.m. to about 3 p.m., with a break for an informal pizza lunch. There's plenty of opportunity to drift in and out of the meeting while searching the library and database. I discovered that the TSS supplies storage space for the Texas Speleological Association (TSA) for back issues of the *Texas Cavers* and other items. While we listened to some of the TSS business, we had a great time checking out old issues of the *Cavers*, perusing the TSS newsletter exchange files (which are fairly out of date), gazing at cave maps, and hunting for new caving leads. There's a wealth of information to be found in such a small space in Building 18-A at the Pickle Research Campus at UT-Austin, and the next time they have an Open House (tentatively scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>), I recommend you visit and discover for yourself all that's been made available by this fine organization.

Probably of most general interest to the Texas caving community are the TSS publications. Carl Kunath reported that *Fifty Years of Texas Caving* may be available for sale by TCR this year, but he's having trouble getting people to send in their promised contributions, a common complaint amongst editors! He anticipates that the final version will be approximately 350 pages, and will have color photos sprinkled throughout the copy instead of in a central section (this increases the printing costs).

The *Caves of Sun City*, prepared by Mike Warton, is nearing publication and should be around 250 pages, with a color cover and some color photo pages. Publication dates for both of these volumes may be delayed due to the age-old problem of finding enough liquid assets to pay the printing costs.

At one point during the meeting the topic of recruiting new, younger cavers into the field of cave cartography was discussed. Several ideas were tossed around, and then I suggested the TSS might want to sponsor a half-day surveying workshop on the Sunday morning of the Spring TSA Convention. Many of the directors thought this was a good idea, and if we can work the Convention date around their busy caving schedule, they offered to organize and run the workshop.

Usually following the meeting there's a work party in the office, and Bill and I stayed long enough to help move some heavy map cabinets. We had a fine time, and later that week Butch gave me a sneak peek at the new TSS web site. It's now up on the official site at <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/tnhc/www/tss/> so check it out. My favorite statistic, found on the "TSS Stats" page, is that there are 1,820 caves in the TSS database that are "lost." This means that there are no GPS coordinates or topographic location data for these caves, and some of them have very detailed maps and reports. Doesn't it make you want to go find them again?

## Newsletter Exchange Review by R.D. Milhollin, NSS 29962

NSS News January 2004 (Vol. 62 No. 01)

Wow, check out the cover of this issue! Read how this remarkable photo was made. The lead article is by transplanted Texas caver Melanie Alspaugh and deals with the Crikvena, Croatia expedition in 2003. The expedition included cavers from several European countries, and focused on Meduza, the third deepest cave in Croatia, located in the Sjevneri Velebit (Northern Mountains) in a national park along the Adriatic coast. Melanie reviews the natural features of the area, and a history of the exploration of Meduza, which is named because its shape resembles that of a jellyfish. She then begins a narrative of the exploits of her group in and around the main cave. Nice photos throughout, check out the Croatia re-hydration system.

Next, an unnamed interviewer poses questions to race director Greg Francek in "Caving and the Primal Adventure Quest." This is an "adventure race" sponsored by Subaru in which coed teams of four covered 460 miles in and around Lake Tahoe. The course included about 1,000 feet of cave passage and a mine tunnel. Francek has been caving since 1987, is an NSS member, and manages a commercial cave in California. He comments on the cave course, the suitability of cave environments as athletic venues, the future of cave courses in adventure races, and even filming in a cave.

Remember the cover? OK, here is your chance to find out how it is done. "My Adventure in Big Room and Long Drop Photography" is by the photographer Willie Hunt. He is an Indiana caver who got hooked on TAG caving. He is a believer in digital photography, and gets incredible results with the help of some big strobes. He explains how to get the big shots in a friendly, conversational, style. He does go into some technical details for the benefit of photographers who would like to work up to the big stuff. To ice the cake, Hunt provides a few examples of his work. Wow!

The "Salon Gallery" features some more amazing cave photography. Check out the work of Robert Coomer: very imaginative stuff! The "Spelean Spotlight" settles on Kevin Allred, a native of Utah transplanted to Alaska, "the last frontier". He

answers questions about his own caving, about Alaskan caving, Hawaiian caving, and topics in between. "News and Notes" mentions an upcoming meeting for national cave conservancy groups to be held in Virginia during April.

Bernie Szukalski's "Underground Update" starts out with an article by Pete Penczer about the exploration of Esquire Cave in West Virginia, and includes a snippet about an exploratory dive in the terminal sump by a Texas cave diver. Other caves covered in this digest of NSS grotto and region newsletters is Kimble Pit in Germany Valley, Fisher Ridge, Indiana's Batwing, Wyandotte, and Wayne Caves, Grayson Gunnar and Jugornot Caves in Kentucky, MC111 and King's Bowl Caves in Idaho, Harlansburg Cave now managed by the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy, and Silent River Cave in Arizona. More caves are covered in this expanded version of newsletter reviews: Bloody Knuckle Cave (originally Safe Sex Cave) in Tennessee, South Dakota's Porcupine, Buzzard's, and Tick Attack Caves, not to forget Fossil Pit and Bone Hole. California caves are included: Faulty Cave, Meandering Cave, and Katalnma and Elderberry Caves. Virginia has a new deep one with Corkscrew Cave, and other caves mentioned are Basswood, Hiner-Armstrong, Crab Run, Baker's, Moore's, Kerns Swallet, Henderson, and Sunny Honeysuckle Grotto. The NSS's own McFail's Cave is discussed, including an infeasible called Wicks Hole that is being dug open. Other northeast caves featured are Barytes, Wolferts, Benson's, Secret Caverns, Howe Caverns, Pine Mountain, Green Pond, and Bog Junction Hill-1976 Caves. Moving south, Alabama caves including Deep South, Osceola's Oracle, Covington Bluff, and Conecuh Sea Well Caves get mentioned. Tennessee weighs in again with Yard Dog Hole. Goin' west, there is considerable attention paid to new discoveries at Fort Stanton Cave in New Mexico. Charlotte Richards' quilt, based on a photo from Bustamante, is featured in print. More Virginia caves are covered, including Left and Right Titty (yes, you read right!) Caves, Dick's Birthday, Bull Pasture and Breathing Caves. The West Virginia Cave Conservancy reports the recent acquisition of Donaldson's Cave, and wide-ranging bat-guy Jim Kennedy authored an article on temperatures in Aeolus Bat Cave in Vermont. Kansas features admirably with Schermerhorn Park and Dream Caves. Unusual fluorescence is noted in several Colorado caves including Fulford, J-4, Seawra, Lincoln Caverns, and Ruth Caves. Caves of Puerto Rico are mentioned including Cueva de los Chimenas, Cueva de los Santos, Sistema de los Chorros, and Sistema Vientos. This is the first edition of Bernie's column, which replaces Jay Kennedy's, and he invites grotto and regions to send in newsletters to be reviewed. Good work Bernie!

There is an expanded "Read" section in the *News* this month. It starts off with a full article by Bill Mixon on "Some Good Books on Cave Exploration" in which he reviews classic cave books, books on British cave exploration, American caving, Mexican expeditions, and cave diving. Bill then follows up with more conventional reviews of current releases. The first is *Beneath the Surface: A Natural History of Australian Caves* edited by Brian Finlayson and Elery Hamilton-Smith. This book covers geology, minerals, sediments, paleontology, bats and other life, and people in caves. Although the focus of the work is on Australian caves and caving, Mixon likes the book. The second book reviewed is *Calcite: The Mineral with the Most Forms* edited by Tony Huizing and others. This work is liberally decorated with color photographs showing calcite in all its varied "habits." Again, Mixon recommends this one. *Diving in Darkness: Beneath Rock, Under Ice, Into Wrecks* is the newest work by Martyn Farr. Mixon points out that the book deals primarily with cave diving and serves as a short introduction to overhead environment diving. Mixon is a sucker for cave diving books, and unless it is inaccurate or poorly written he is likely to enjoy and recommend it. This is to take nothing away from Farr, who is well thought of as an adventure / diving author. To give a "balanced" review, Greg Francek (remember the race promoter from the second article), who is an experienced

cave diver, is also asked to review Farr's latest. Francek concentrates on the message of the book: namely that cave diving is not best approached with a single set of rules and procedures as some instructors in "technical diving" insist, but is instead better negotiated with a practiced range of options, critical thinking, all applied with the benefit of earned experience. Mixon gets a rest while Matt Leissring reviews *Hidden Beneath the Mountains: The Caves of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* by Joel Despain. Leissring describes how the book is divided according to themes illustrated by different caves and cave regions. Apparently, this scheme works, and together with laudable illustrations the book earns high marks. Too bad it wasn't available during the recent NSS Convention.

"Technology" by Michael Fraley examines the Petzl Tikka Plus and Zipka Plus LED headlamps. These popular secondary light sources have earned a makeover from their manufacturers. Both lights feature new switches, a fourth LED, a molded ridge to keep light out of user's eyes, three power settings, and a strobe feature. Read on to find differences between the two lights and a possible drawback for photographers. "News and Notes" continues on page 30, the first time I remember a feature section divided up in this manner. It mentions the William Wilson Karst Science Scholarship, and all the details all you budding Ph.D. candidates need to know. In "Society News" the Northwest Alabama Grotto has called it quits, no more NAG. Also, the National Speleological Foundation, set up to protect the financial assets of the NSS, is looking for a treasurer. Anmar Mirza examines bobbin style rappel devices in this month's "Techniques and Safety" column, this is suggested reading for Petzl Stop users. As a final note, the editors of the NSS News Conservation Issue are still actively soliciting articles and photos of restoration work done in caves. If you have been cleaning caves let them know!

*The Oztotl Caver* (DFW Grotto) January 2004 (Vol. 23 No. 1)

Oztotl has been busy! This edition has several articles of interest. Jay Jordan writes about the Texas caving adventures of Ukranian caver Tetyana "Tanya" Yermakova who was shown around some caves of central Texas by Dave McClung and the Jordan-Knights. This was just part of her month-long tour of the U.S., and included time in West Virginia, British Columbia, New York, Florida, and TAG. Milo Marks penned the tale of a group of Venture Scouts led on a visit to Jester Cave in Oklahoma by some crusty DFW area cavers. Jay then describes the goings-on at the DFW Christmas Party and Caverns of Sonora Restoration, in separate articles, no relation. Bill Steele describes a TAG trip to Bear Hollow Rift, Alabama.

*Speleospace* January 2004 (Greater Houston Grotto)

Charles Shirley wrote a trip report on the Restoration work at Caverns of Sonora, which was his first Texas cave. He hoped that all Texas caves were like this, with a paved and lighted trail, lots of decorations, except that Texas caving seemed to involve a lot of rock hauling!

*COGnizance* December 2003 (Central Oklahoma Grotto)

That Steve Beleu must be one of the more versatile caving newsletter contributors out there. He does articles, he does trip reports, he does poems, and now he does SONGS! His "March of the Cave Ogres" (in alternating 4/4 and 5/4 time) is published in this newsletter, but there are no trip reports, a rare occurrence for this normally prolific caving club. There is a description of the "Bowline" knot that does not make use of a "Rabbit" reference.

## Caving Events Calendar, February 2004

- Feb 12-15** **Wilderness First Aid Class:** Sponsored by The Devils Canyon Wilderness Program, St. Stephen's School, & The Texas Speleological Association, held at Colorado Bend State Park. Cost is \$100. **Contact:** Rebecca Jones (325) 247-5165 [rebeccajones@earthlink.net](mailto:rebeccajones@earthlink.net)
- Feb 13-15** **Colorado Bend State Park Project:** long-time favorite of Mavericks, pretty close to home, semi-regular schedule, second weekend of the month. This month will be a data session in the conference center, involving work on drafting maps. **Contacts:** Terry Holsinger (512) 443-4241 [trhli@sprynet.com](mailto:trhli@sprynet.com) or Dale Barnard [Barnarddale@yahoo.com](mailto:Barnarddale@yahoo.com)
- Feb 29** **Government Canyon State Natural Area Project:** 20 miles west of San Antonio. Activities include survey, exploration, ridge walking, and digging. Participants must enter property with group, contact in advance for times. See page 8 of the January 2004 issue of this newsletter for directions. **Contacts:** Marvin and Lisa Miller (830) 885-5631 [mimiller@gvtc.com](mailto:mimiller@gvtc.com)
- Feb 28-29** **High Guads Restoration Project: (New Mexico):** On-going work amid spectacular scenery in beautiful caves of the Lincoln National Forest. Last weekend of the month, permits often include Three Fingers, Virgin, Pink Dragon, Pink Panther, Hidden, Wonderland, and Black Cave. Activities vary from month to month. **Contacts:** Susan Herpin or Jennifer Foote [highguads@yahoo.com](mailto:highguads@yahoo.com)
- March 12-14** **Colorado Bend State Park Project**
- March 20-21** **Beginner's Trip to Jester Cave, OK:** Come see the longest gypsum cave in the U.S., complete with blind catfish and crayfish! Bring along a trash bag, we'll help clean up the cave during the trip. This is a water cave, so be prepared to get wet. We'll stay at Quartz Mountain State Park, where you can choose to camp or stay in the fabulous lodge. This trip is suitable for families with children aged 14 and above. **Contact:** Diana Tomchick (214) 418-5827 [Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu)
- When Scheduled** **Carlsbad Caverns and Fort Stanton Cave Restoration:** New Mexico restoration trips in large, sensitive caves. CRF trips have unique requirements, and are held on long holiday weekends. **Contact:** Barbe Barker (505) 687-4270 [cloudcaver@pvtnetworks.net](mailto:cloudcaver@pvtnetworks.net)

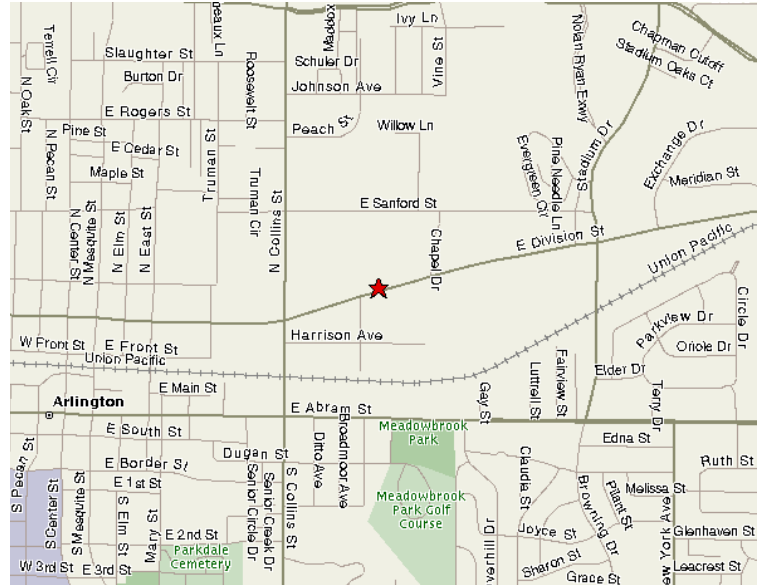
**Next Meeting:  
Feb. 10th, 7:00 p.m.**

**Agenda items:  
Special election for grotto Secretary.  
Meeting location.  
TSA 2004 Spring Convention.  
Great-X T-shirt auction.**

**Program:  
Caving in Canada -- slide show by Jose  
Curras.**

**Be sure to join us at Bodacious BBQ!**

**New Location: Bodacious BBQ  
1206 E. Division St.  
Arlington, TX 76011  
(817) 860-4248**



Maverick Grotto  
c/o Diana Tomchick  
10106 Technology Blvd. W. #826  
Dallas, TX 75220



## Maverick Grotto Information Card

Name:		Spouse's Name:	
Children Names:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Home Ph: (    )	Work Ph: (    )	Cell Ph: (    )	
Email Address:			
Alternate Email Address:			
Webpage:		OK to list on Maverick Website? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Maverick Grotto Charter Member?			
NSS Member?	NSS#	TSA Member?	
List other grotto memberships:			
List name of primary grotto you declare:			
Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <input type="checkbox"/> Member <input type="checkbox"/> Subscriber <small>(\$15.00 Membership with Newsletter/\$22.00 Membership with Maverick Grotto Email)</small>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Hard Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Webpage <input type="checkbox"/> Maverick Grotto Email Address			

Please mail this information card, with your payment for grotto dues to:

Maverick Grotto  
c/o Sharon Mastbrook  
3412 Walton Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76133